

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00045 301711Z

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SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TUSCAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

REF: FLORENCE 0040

1. SUMMARY. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) PARTY IN TUSCANY UNDERGOING RENEWAL. REMOVAL OF FANFANIANI LEADERSHIP PROBABLY AS CONSEQUENCE INTERNAL ELECTIONS. ANOTHER RESULT IS LIKELY MOVEMENT OF CENTER OF GRAVITY OF PARTY TO LEFT. DC FACES PROSPECT OF LONG SOJOURN IN REGIONAL POLITICAL WILDERNESS. DC JUDGEMENT ON NATIONAL ELECTORAL PROSPECTS SEES PSI AS REAL LOSERS.

U.S. IMAGE IN REGION DAMAGED BY PAST AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS BUT STRONG BONDS STILL EXIST. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF VISITS TO SIX OF NINE TUSCAN PROVINCES (AREZZO, FLORENCE, GROSSETO, LIVORNO, LUCCA AND SIENA), CONSULATE POLITICAL OFFICER OBTAINED CERTAIN IMPRESSIONS WHICH TOGETHER WITH PRELIMINARY VOTING RESULTS FROM DC PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS (HELD IN PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DC CONGRESS) PROVIDE DATA ON FUTURE ORIENTATION TUSCAN DC.

3. RENEWAL UNDERWAY: CLEAREST FACT IN WAVE OF RENEWAL BEING CARRIED OUT AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL. SEVEN OF NINE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES ARE IN MID-THIRTIES, PRODUCTS OF UNIVERSITY TRAINING AND DC YOUTH MOVEMENT. FIVE OF NINE ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF LEFT DC FORCES.

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PAGE 02 FLOREN 00045 301711Z

IN CONVERSATIONS BEFORE ELECTIONS, THREE OF THESE PROVINCIAL

SECRETARIES EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR LINEA ZACCAGNINI LISTS. MIDDLE OF THE ROADER FLORENCE SECRETARY EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT LEFT WOULD DO WELL AND PLACED FANFANI LIST AS MAJOR VOTE GETTER. ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL RESULTS HAVE NOT BEEN CERTIFIED, EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT LINEA ZACCAGNINI LISTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TUSCANY. (IN FLORENCE ALONE, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY PROPHESIED 20 PERCENT FOR ZACCAGNINI AND 40 PERCENT FOR FANFANI; FIRST RESULTS FOR PROVINCE INDICATE ALMOST REVERSE--25 PERCENT FOR FANFANI AND 38 PERCENT FOR LINEA ZACCAGNINI.) IN AREZZO, STRONGHOLD OF FANFANI, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT FANFANI LOYALISTS ONLY RECEIVED 40 PERCENT AND SECOND LIST WHICH GROUPED ALL OTHER FORCES POLLED 60 PERCENT. AREZZO SECRETARY ALSO IMPRESSED BY TURNOUT AT SECTIONAL MEETINGS WHICH WERE OVER 70 PERCENT OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP, SOMETHING NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED.

4. REGIONAL SECRETARY BUTINI (FANFANI LOYALIST), BEFORE FULL VOTE WAS IN, PUBLISHED ARTICLE STATING THE FANFANI CURRENT IN TUSCANY "IN ITS TRADITIONAL FORM IS FINISHED." ALL SOURCES INDICATE THAT WITH THESE ELECTION RESULTS, THE ANNOUNCED DRIVE BY THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES OF LUCCA, LIVORNO, MASSA CARRARA, PISA AND SIENA TO REMOVE BUTINI IS ASSURED OF SUCCESS AND WILL OCCUR AT THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH WILL BE CONVOKED IN FLORENCE 15 DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

5. REGIONAL PARTY'S FUTURE POLICIES: THE ELECTIONS WHICH HAVE CHANGED THE INTERNAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE DC ARE STILL TOO CLOSE TO HAVE ALLOWED TIME FOR A CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT WILL FOLLOW. SIENA AND LUCCA SOURCES WHAT THE DC TO MOVE (SPOSTARE) TO THE LEFT. DESPITE THIS, THEY DISCOUNT ANY LOSS FROM CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT AS EXPLAINED BELOW. LEADERS IN AREZZO AND FLORENCE ARE CAUTIOUS IN JUDGING WHERE PARTY SHOULD REST IN POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND INDICATE THAT FORTHCOMING REGIONAL CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO SETTLE ISSUE.

6. ELECTION FORECASTS: ACROSS TUSCANY, DC LEADERSHIP IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS IN JUDGEMENT THAT PARTY FACES LONG TIME AS MINORITY PARTY IN REGION. PCI IS GIVEN GRUDGING APPROVAL AS SERIOUS, WELL ORGANIZED, DISCIPLINED POLITICAL FORCE WHICH MOVES SLOWLY BUT SURELY TO ORGANIZE AND HOLD ITS ELECTORAL GAINS. DC LEADERSHIP
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PAGE 03 FLOREN 00045 301711Z

ADmits that PCI removes its occasional corrupt or inept representatives while "we defend our to the last breath." Opinion is unanimous that the liberals and social democrats are in no position to face national elections and the latter, especially, will suffer heavy losses. The republicans are judged to have opportunity to make a small advance. Several leaders feel that the PCI will confirm their current regional voting percentage (no 46 percent), although this is debated. The real conundrum in

TUSCAN DC CIRCLES IS THE SOCIALISTS. MANY FEEL THE PSI HAS BEEN HURT BY THE CURRENT CRISIS AND THAT IF ELECTIONS ARE HELD, THE PSI WILL PAY THE PRICE ALTHOUGH NO ONE PROFESSES TO KNOW WHERE THEIR VOTES WILL GO. MANY SOURCES STATED THAT THE DC NEEDS TO MOVE LEFT TO BUILD MORE SUPPORT. THESE SAME SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE CONSERVATIVE VOTER HAS NO OPTION BUT TO STICK WITH THE DC SINCE THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ITS RIGHT.

7. U.S. IMAGE AS SEEN BY REGIONAL DC LEADERS: THERE IS WIDESPREAD UNEASE WITH THE U.S. WHICH SEEMS TO SPRING FROM THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP'S INVOLVEMENT WITH ANTI-VIETNAM ACTIVITIES WHILE IN UNIVERSITY. THE CURRENT PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CIA AND ITS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH ITALIAN PERSONALITIES RAISES ANOTHER POINT OF DOUBT ABOUT THE U.S. ABILITY TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD. FINALLY THERE IS A FEELING THAT THE U.S. HAS "SHORTCHANGED" ITALY AND THE EEC IN ITS DIRECT DEALINGS WITH THE USSR ON DETENTE.GORDON

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